

## **Historic, archived document**

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## CHAPTER I

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## CARPET BEETLES

### HIDE IN CRACKS

There's no proof, entomologists say, that carpet beetles seen on spirea and other flowering bushes near a house find their way indoors. Inside the house, however, carpet beetles are difficult to get rid of, because they live to a great extent out of sight in the cracks and hidden places in the rooms. They lay their eggs in floor cracks, behind baseboards, in long-piled fabrics, in furniture covers, and under the edges of carpets and rugs. With both carpet beetles and clothes moths it's the larvae that go for clothing and furnishings containing wool, hair, bristles, fur, feathers, and other animal substance.

Fumigation of an entire house may be the best way to destroy a heavy infestation of carpet beetles. For this, professional fumigators are advisable. Oil pyrethrum sprays are used for spraying floor cracks and spaces about the quarter rounds and baseboards. These sprays only kill the insects that are hit. In the routine of good housekeeping, rugs should be cleaned frequently on both sides to get rid of carpet beetles. Filling floor cracks with a good crack filler eliminates hiding places and makes housecleaning simpler, suggests

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(Name) (Title) (Institution)

In protecting clothing stored during warm weather, measures that are effective against carpet beetles will also keep away clothes moths. A pound of naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene crystals, scattered between thin layers of paper and placed at different levels in the clothing in a tight box or trunk,



will destroy any of the insects that may be present. All stored articles should first be thoroughly cleaned, brushed, aired, and sunned, to get rid of any stray eggs or larvae of either carpet beetles or moths. In a closet that is kept tightly closed, a pound of either chemical to about 100 feet of closet space prevents infestation.

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